Kagin reference p 396

Gorham Blake
letter to Adams & Company, Dec 6, 1852
In Wells Fargo Bank History Room, San Francisco

Adams & Co's Express & Banking House
opened in San Fran Oct 1849

Failed 2/23/55 because of panic
caused by Page, Bacon & Co failure

MEYERS BAR

MEYERS ~~BAR~~ & COMPANY

The 1/2 OZ TROY WEIGHT US STANDARD
struck over a US large cent is
the basis for the MEYERS bar
It is said in Adams p. 102 that
it has "no denominational value"
and "intended simply as a stamp for one-half
ounce of gold".
It is #71 and not illustrated

Sold at Levick sale in 1884 for $1.60

This is nothing more than a Troy weight
made by Frederick Meyers, a scale maker
of Philadelphia.
I have a cf coin detector made by
Meyers. It is probably unique and very complicated.
This written up by me in my scale book and
in the Numismatist of Nov 2003

Numismatist June 1940

"Counterfeit of Moffat Bar Discovered"

begins 9th 13th edition

Red Book inclusions of Blake & Agnell and Blake & Co.

9th edition 1956 Blake & Agnell 1855 $23.30 ingot – no commentary p.212

10th edition 1957 Blake & Agnell 1855 $23.30 ingot labeled unique p. 212

11th edition 1958 same as above

12th edition 1959 same as above

13th edition 1960 title enhanced to Blake & Agnell, Assayers; Sacramento 1855 in bold and the following description added " Gorham Blake and ___Agnell conducted an assaying and gold smelting plant at 52 J Street in Sacramento, in and after 1854. Mr. Agnell died a few days after Christmas in 1855." Second ingot 1855 $25.00 added and labeled unique. Blake & Company, Sacramento 1855 $20.00 no price or other label attached. Text "The twenty dollar piece shown herewith, was undoubtedly made during the last days of December, 1855. The piece illustrated is by far the finer of only two known specimens. There are also known, in copper or brass, trial pieces for a conventional appearing double eagle dated 1856, and bearing the legend "Blake & Co." pp. 210-211.

Co ?

no pecture

14th edition 1961 same text and illustrations but the $25.00 ingot is put first with the $23.30 ingot second. The distinctions between the two ingots are as follows: the originally listed ingot for $23.30 on back lists 1 oz 5 dwt, 22 carat, 23dols30c 1855 while the $25.00 ingot on back has 25dolls, 900 thous, 1855 with the commas indicating line breaks. The common front has BLAKE,&, AGNELL, ASSAYERS, SAC. CAL. Pp. 209-210

pp

15th edition 1962 same as above

16th edition 1963 same as above except for pp. 229-230.

17th edition 1964 same as above

18th edition 1965 same as above

19th edition 1966 completely removed. No mention of Blake or Blake & Agnell.

Wayte Raymond's *Standard Catalogue of U.S. Coins*

1940- Long list of contributors, No Ford or Breen
No Agnell, Agrell or Blake

1941 same as above (B.G. Johnson was a contributor)
1944 same as above
1945 same as above
1947 12th edition, copyright 1946, Neither Ford nor Breen listed as contributors, Private gold section has no introduction and very little text, no Blake of any kind.
1950 14th edition, copyright 1949, No Ford or Breen, no Blake or intro.
1951 15th edition, copyright 1950, No mention of contributors at all, No Blake or intro to Private gold.
1953 16th edition copyright 1952, John J. Ford Jr., as Associate editor, research by Walter Breen, more annotation on illustrations, but still no Blake. First appearance of copper "trials" in Cincinnati Mining & Trading section. First appearance of the Introduction to the section.
1954:55 17th edition, copyright 1954, Ford & Breen still editing, same private gold intro (with typos corrected); Blake & Co. $20 added in two styles, the coronet head and the screw press token- see photocopy.

For 18th edition see other ~~[illegible]~~ detail

Lilly Inventory p. 30

Blake & Co. #20 pattern in gold
1855 A unique item acquired
from a Mr. F. Korff of Mesa
Arizona.

(I believe Bk of Calif has one also)

Use of UNIQUE? in ~~[illegible]~~ Breen book

Breen Encyclopedia

p 613 # 7705 Unique?

p 616 # 7724 through 7729
Controversial Coin Ingots

7724 Unique?
7727 Unique?
7729 Unique?

p 623 Templeton Reid Unique ~~no~~ ?
$ 10 (without ?)
# 7738

p 625 Bechtors
7740 Unique? $ 2.50

p 626 Bechtler
7749 Unique? $5

p 630 # 7770 $ 10 Cal # 7770 Unique?

p 631 $ 7772 Cenci Unique?
7774 Unique Cenci

p. 232 # 7776 Meyers Unique?
7779 Moffat Unique?
7780 Moffat Unique?
7794 Norris Unique?
7795 Dunsby Unique?
State Assay # 7800, 7801, 7802, 7803, 7804, 7805 all Unique?
7806, 7807, 7808
Ickes # 7817 Unique? 7818 Naylee Unique?

~~A Atta~~

Kagin asserts that BLAKE and AGRELL in late 1855 "began coining gold coins and ingots to fill the needs of the community. They presumably issued coins for little more than one month." (p. 171). His dissertation also makes this assertion (p. 212), but points out that no California newspapers mention ~~this~~ any such coinage (p. 213).

A notice in the Alta California of November 25, 1855 mentions Blake & Agrell only as one of the largest assay offices, ~~quoting~~ the information coming directly from the Sacramento Union of ———

Wishing in early October 1856 it is stated that Blake & Co prepared dies
Prince Cunnet
"The Assay Office (Blake & Co) is striking no coins" (dessert p 216) Oct 4 1852 p. 2 col 1 of Sloat. This is a San Fran publication

Referring ~~back to~~ the "Assay Office" as Blake & Co is directly in conflict with the "Assay Office" identified as in San Franc as as Kellogg & Richter (p 206).

~~There~~ There seems to be no evidence whatsoever that any coinage (as distinguished from bars & ingots) was made by Blake & Agrell or Blake & Co under any correctly or incorrectly spelled name except for the 1856 patterns of Blake & Co.

Kuner is said to have cut dies for Kellogg.

~~12 6 8 11 14 15~~

Blake & Co.

16, ~~107~~, ~~73~~, 201, ~~74~~, ~~75~~, ~~76~~, ~~108~~, ~~90~~, 202, 203, ~~89~~
236, ~~17~~, ~~109~~,

16, 17, 73, 74, 75, 76, 89, 90, 107, 108, 109, 201, 202,
203, 236

(p. 84)

~~P 84~~
86

Sotheby's catalog mentions ~~Bl~~ Agnell as being ~~in~~ in a partnership with Blake lasting only 6 weeks.

(as distinguished from ~~bars~~ ingots)

Kagin recognizes that

~~Whether~~ there is no reference during the 1850s ~~Kagin does not~~ for the existence of any gold coinage issued ~~whether~~ under the names of BLAKE & AGRELL (or BLAKE & AGNELL) or BLAKE & CO ~~gold coins are not clearly~~ ~~solved by Kagin.~~ ~~very difficult for Kagin to clarify.~~

He states on page 172 of his book

Copy ff "Its interesting

He relies entirely on the existence of circular gold coins of BLAKE & AGNELL and circular dies of BLAKE + CO ~~circular coins and dies~~ unsourced origin in the 1850s for their existence

Yet on page 171 he states:

"Owing to the periodic closing of the United States

" did not coin for very long p.172

Yet for Kellogg

mid Jan 1854 Request to Kellogg & Richards for coins

Jan 31, 1854 Kellogg said yes

In 1854

Feb 9, 1854 Kellogg issued coin

p. 166 article of May 1855 in Herald mentioned that Kellogg & Co was supplying over 50% more coins than US mint often 50,000 to 60,000 daily

p 165 Prices Current 3/31/54 editorial about disaster text gives the Assay office (Kellogg + Richards) without the coining of the dust we would return to barter

p. 164 lots more data

$6 million of $20 pieces accepted because

Sacramento Union
open Nov 12, 1855 p 2 col 6 period between need to study
close Nov 29, 1855
Nove 25, 1854 p 3 col 1 influx of assay offices
10/4/56 p 2 col 1 must be at work soon
~~[illegible]~~
Dec 27, 1855 p 2 col 5

Bulletin (San Fran) look for editorial just prior to 9/19/56

Daily Herald (San Fran)
~~Herald~~ 4/24/55 Kellog & Richter
3/21/54 p 3 col 1 scarcity of copper + acids
3/31/55 p 2 col 2 Kellogg & Wass filing need for coin
3/31/55 p 1 col 2 ~~wash round [illegible]~~ make coins
3/1/54 p 2 col 3 make round ~~[illegible]~~ 50s

Prices Current
9/19/56 p 2 col 3
3/31/54 editorial
10/4/56 p 2 col 1

Alta Calif 11/25/55 mention Blake & Argall
5/16/55 p 3 col 3 Wass Mol 50s.

San Fran Chronicle 12/20/97 death of Blake
San Fran Examiner 12/20/97 " "

Alta Calif San Fran daily | 2 reels per yr

Sacramento Union microfilm | 2 reels per yr.

Sloat's San Fran Prices Current. & Shipping List 1851-1852

Bancroft Lib Univ of Cal 510 642 6481 1854-55-56

San Fran Bulletin

San Fran Herald

State Tribune San Fran

Colville's Sacramento Directory

54 Western Americana on microfilm
Call # 549 Reel 120

microfiche for others - do not circulate microfiche.

9/27/00

$5 Shultz + Co obverse and reverse struck over 1847 Mexican 8 real Silver obverse on obverse and reverse on reverse.

Kagin p. 355 illustrated. Listed

Copy made when original was borrowed by Ford from Kosoff and copy returned in place of original to Kosoff at time of convention in Chicago when hearing of PNG arbitration took place. Later Kosoff was told about joke and given back original 196?

This shows Ford knew about Franklin making copies. Franklin was with Ford at Chicago convention and hearing.

8/12/89

Lisa Stefanelli showed a picture of

Georgia
Hall
United States
Army

bar and said it was from Kiefer

She asked me to visit. Cory was there & agreed.

This is not accurate.
SPN uses it and more (much)

(Page 1)

Comment # 27

We feel that there is enough evidence to support a scenario as to how the profusion of unique and rare U.S. pioneer gold coins, patterns, bars, etc. first appeared during the 20th century. This probability has been hinted at but not detailed so far as we know. It is a probability which has been under review by us for many years.

As private coiners and the USAOG went out of business the U.S. Branch Mint at San Francisco accumulated by purchase and transfer from Albert Kuner and others machinery, equipment, dies, hubs, tools of those coiners. Some of these were used for the S.F. Mint's operations and other items were put in storage at the S.F. Mint. Kuner lived until 1906 when the S.F. earthquake occurred. The S.F. Mint was damaged somewhat at the ground level but remained principle on lower floors. S.F. bank buildings were destroyed by fire etc. The SF Mint needed its first floor rooms to accomodate the temporary operation of SF banks. The 30 USAOG dies which Kagin (p 273) reports as destroyed is without evidence. The SF Mint shipped junk to a company dealing with Los Angeles to make room (Adams p. 102). Kagin (p. 273) admits a Kuner due for the abuse did exist.

#50 USAOG shows up and was used later to strike souvenirs. Spoons etc from Los Angeles

What we believe occurred is that the Treasury Department not known what to do with the junk sent the junk to the Philadelphia Mint. When it dismissed Hazeltine and Nagy learned of this through their relation at the Mint. This "junk" could have contained not only USAOG items but used and unused dies and hubs of Templeton Reid, Massachusetts and California Company, Bolivar, etc but also a plethora of sizes and styles of letter and numbering punches. The Philadelphia Mint would have little if any use for such items, but the temptation by legacy of it to do something was too strong. In due course Hazeltine and Nagy had to resign. It was not necessary to make transfer dies only to clean up existing dies if necessary. Nagy's products began to appear in the Coins and Bond which included the collection became known. It in the 1914 ANS Exhibit of Ammon narcissus, a $20 1856 Blake + Co. stamp on copper and acquired as his only contribution.

This shows how speculation can be erroneous SPN

How the West was Faked

This group of articles by John Kleshay and T.V. Buttrey was taken off ~~internet~~ net from an English source in June 2005.

Prior to this text a former text was on the web from a Cambridge University source where Buttrey was formerly a teacher or curator on coins. (See print out from the former text).

Adams' Official Premium List of United States Private and Territorial Gold Coins

Edgar H. Adams 1909

p. 72 Nagy sold $50 1877 US pattern with star like ornaments in cigar box to well known New York Collector (p. 71) (this is Woodin) in 1909 for $10,000

p. 58 under Templeton Reid

$25

"While the $25 piece is not definitely known to exist, yet a progressive young coin dealer of Philadelphia, who this year was connected with the biggest transaction in gold coins ever consummated in the United States, has informed the compiler that he has located a specimen of this greatest of Territorial varieties and may be able to bring it to the surface before the expiration of the present year"

THIS PROVES NAGY HAD THE $25 TEMPLETON REID DIES

None of the Blake + Co
bars in Central America match the
numerals or letters
on any of the Blake + Co
items ~~subject to~~ described in the
pre Central America
literature.

nor do they match any
Blake + Agnell pieces.

Mar 2003

Kagin p. 326 Multiple struck panel of Humbert USAOG $10 reverse with 1851 date and square ends "Probably made by Steven Nagy."

The $10 US Assay Office
with tablet on reverse reading
AUGOSTUS HOMBERT
1852/1
with rounded ends

2-69

See page 269 for 1852/1 date 2 overl
page 270 for 1852 no overdating.

Humbert as ASSAYER

See page 271 for US ~~Assay~~ ASSAY Office
272
273

no coin of Humbert made with
1851 date but panel
24 leftover punch.

Humbert $50 is dated 1851
p 268

No Humbert $20 made by Humbert in 1851

Splashes p 328 show dies were there

Rounded panel 2 ends on one ounce
274

If Wright made panel orders they would be in Phila

P

10/6/98

J. Kimmel Jr Avon Lake OH

Tel 440 933-8672 44012

should speak to his father

Jerry Kimmell, Sr.

440-933-9529

Jim ~~[illegible]~~ Valliere works for Don Kagin